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U.S. Expects Guilty Pleas in Israel Spy Case

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WASHINGTON, June 3 — A former Navy analyst and his wife are expected to plead guilty Wednesday to Federal charges in connection with an Israeli espionage operation that gathered classified material in the United States, Reagan Administration officials said today.

The nature of the charges could not be determined, but one official said that the former analyst, Jonathan Jay Pollard, would probably face many years in prison under the plea bargain.

The United States Attorney's office in Washington, which is handling the diplomatically sensitive case, announced that a court hearing dealing with the case would be held Wednesday afternoon.

The office declined to describe the purpose of the hearing, but officials who spoke on the condition that they not be identified said that the Pollards would probably enter their guilty pleas at that time. They said that new details of the espionage operation might also be disclosed at the hearing.

The plea bargains would follow

months of negotiations between the Justice Department and the State Department.

One official said that the negotiations went on today, with some State Department officials continuing to argue that the prosecution should be limited because of possible harm to American-Israeli relations. By late afternoon, "the negotiations were over," the official said.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Mr. Pollard, a counterterrorism analyst at a Navy facility in Maryland, has already acknowledged that he provided the Israeli Government with classified documents.

It was unclear how the interagency negotiations this week had affected the fate of an Israeli military officer who has been described as a leader of the espionage operation.

Earlier this week a Reagan Administration official said he expected that the officer, whose rank and whereabouts were not disclosed, would soon be charged in the case.

As part of a plea bargain, the Pollards were expected to offer complete cooperation in an espionage investigation that has already strained relations between the United States and Israel.

Mr. Pollard was arrested last November after he and his wife drove to the Israeli Embassy here, apparently seeking asylum. Mr. Pollard was arrested immediately after leaving the embassy compound and charged with selling American secrets to Israel.

Pollard Still in Custody

His wife, Anne Henderson Pollard, was taken into custody the next day and accused of unauthorized possession of classified documents. While Mr. Pollard has remained in custody since his arrest, Mrs. Pollard was released pending trial.

Lawyers for the couple did not return telephone calls to their office today.

A decision by the Pollards to cooper-

ate fully in the investigation could lead to additional strains between the American and Israeli governments.

News reports last week said that the espionage operation in the United States, which the Israeli Government has acknowledged but has described as unauthorized, was much larger than had been known previously.

In a statement issued Saturday, the Israeli Government described the allegation as "baseless." According to Israeli sources, two Israeli diplomats who had worked with Mr. Pollard were quietly brought home after his arrest.

In December, Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel apologized to the United States and portrayed the spy operation as independent of Israel's main intelligence agencies. After long negotiations, American prosecutors were permitted to travel to Israel as part of their investigation.

Search Revealed Secret Papers

According to the F.B.I., Mr. Pollard admitted that he had provided Israel with hundreds of pages of classified military documents, including one stack of mostly top-secret documents more than 15 inches high.

After his arrest, law-enforcement officials said a search of the Pollards' apartment had turned up about 80 secret documents in the master bedroom.

The F.B.I. said Mr. Pollard had acknowledged receiving about \$2,500 a month from an Israeli contact in a spying operation that began in 1984. The Israeli also financed two trips to Europe for Mr. Pollard, the bureau said.

Mr. Pollard also is reported to have told investigators that he called an Israeli contact shortly before his arrest and asked for help in evading F.B.I. surveillance. According to Mr. Pollard's account, the bureau said, the Israeli contact told Mr. Pollard, "If you can shake surveillance, you should come in."